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## LITERACY CENTER TO HOLD GREEN EGGS & HAM FUNDRAISING EVENT

Center Celebrates 15 Years Serving the Community

Lehi, Utah | February 7, 2014– Have you ever wondered how states estimate their future prison populations? Analysts use the literacy rates of children in the fourth grade. Being able to read is so fundamental to a child's success that if they are not reading at grade level by the time they are 10 years old, the risk of them ending up in prison increases dramatically.



The employees and volunteers at Lehi City's Rippy Literacy Center work hard to help every child become literate and give them the ability to thrive in society. Approximately 300 children are enrolled in Literacy Center programs at any time. Nancy Weitzel, Director of the Literacy Center, said, "At the Literacy Center, our goal is to offer effective one-on-one literacy training to help families and individuals develop the necessary literacy skills to thrive in society; finding value in their work, educational experiences, and personal lives."

The best part about the Literacy Center is that the programs are completely free to participants. "Our founders, Hesther and Bill Rippy, wanted to create a place where children could learn to read for free. We stand by that vision today," commented Weitzel. While children receive tutoring for free, the Literacy Center has real financial needs. To help meet those needs, each year on President's Day the Literacy Center invites the community to their Green Eggs & Ham fundraiser.

Green Eggs & Ham has become a fun community tradition for the whole family. The entrance fee is \$6 per person which provides a delicious breakfast and access to a number of great activities including bounce houses, balloon animals, face-painting, carnival games, and more. All proceeds from the event benefit the Literacy Center. Smith's Marketplace is helping to sponsor the event this year and is donating breakfast items so the Literacy Center can put more money back into its programs.

"The Center is celebrating 15 years, so we're throwing a huge party, and we want everyone to come out and celebrate with us," said Weitzel. Mayor Bert Wilson, who is a huge proponent of the Literacy Center, said, "Now more than ever we need citizens to come together to increase the unity in our community. Students, tutors, volunteers, and parents at the Lehi Rippy Literacy Center see firsthand the difference that is made when we serve each other in our community. So please come join us for Green Eggs and Ham and help the Literacy Center continue to serve our community for years into the future."

Green Eggs & Ham will be held on Monday, February 17<sup>th</sup> from 8:00 am to 11:00 am at the Lehi Legacy Center. To learn more about the Rippy Literacy Center and Green Eggs & Ham visit [www.lehi-ut.gov](http://www.lehi-ut.gov).

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*Lehi City is committed to transparency and keeping the community informed. All media communications should be directed to the Public Information Office. The Lehi City Public Information Officer, Robert Ranc, can be reached at (801) 814-0602, or email Robert at [rranc@lehi-ut.gov](mailto:rranc@lehi-ut.gov). Follow us on Facebook or our Twitter handle, @LehiCity.*